

Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin, Constable

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PRESS RELEASE March 3, 2021

A reported "squatter" was arrested for Burglary of a Residence overnight by Precinct 8 following several days of investigation. Over the past several of weeks, our office has received numerous reports of a home in the 900 block of Buoy Rd. being continually broken into. The house is located in the Camino South subdivision of Clear Lake. On Sunday, February 27, 2021 at around 1:00 AM, Deputy J. Toliver was dispatched to the home again after a caller reported seeing a man enter the property.

Deputy Toliver arrived on scene and observed a male exiting the residence through the front door. The male identified himself as 44 year old Brian Louis Taylor. Taylor stated he had come to the residence to perform a welfare check on his cousin whom he claimed was the owner. Taylor also stated he was attempting to retrieve some of his property that he left there when he was last at the home. Taylor stated to Deputy Toliver that he entered the property through an unsecured window because he did not have the proper key to enter through the door. Taylor stated that the locks had been changed and his keys no longer worked. The home is boarded up and "No Trespass" signage had been clearly posted by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Taylor admitted to Deputy Toliver that he saw the signs but said they had not been there previously.

Deputy Toliver detained Taylor and placed him in the backseat of his patrol vehicle for further investigation. Taylor advised no one else was in the house, which was confirmed when Deputy Toliver and additional HPD Officers secured the home. Deputy Toliver contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office, however charges for Criminal Trespass or Burglary of a Habitation were declined at that time due to not being able to definitively identify the owner of the property, who would be the complainant in a criminal case. The residence was secured and Taylor was released after being told not to return to the property.

On Sunday, February 28, 2021 at approximately 3:00 PM, Precinct 8 Deputies Langley and Basurto were dispatched back to the residence after receiving reports that Taylor was back on the property. The Deputies arrived to find Taylor had once again entered the residence through a side garage door. Still having no complainant, criminal charges were unable to be filed and Taylor was ordered to leave the property.

On Tuesday, March 3, 2021, Deputy Toliver was able to finally confirm that the home is owned by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and obtained authorization to pursue criminal charges on anyone found to be trespassing on the property. He learned HUD had in fact placed the "no trespass" signage on the property and had changed the locks. With this information,

Deputy Toliver once again contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office and a charge of Burglary of a Habitation was accepted. Deputy Toliver filed the charge and obtained an arrest warrant for Taylor yesterday evening. Shortly before midnight, Taylor was located and arrested near Galveston Rd. and Bay Area Blvd. after he was spotted by concerned citizens who recognized him. He was booked into the Harris County Jail without incident. No bond has been set at this time.

We recognize this case has garnered a lot of attention over the past several weeks, and appreciate the public's input as law enforcement worked together with community members to resolve the situation. This is a great example of "see something; say something" and we appreciate the input we have received from area citizens.

Jason Finnen, Chief Deputy Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office